



Secretary of the Air Force  
Office of Legislative Liaison

## CONGRESSIONAL HEARING RESUME

106TH Congress \*Second Session\*

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**SUBJECT:** FY01 Service Chiefs Posture Hearing

**COMMITTEE:** Senate Armed Services Committee

**CHAIRMAN:** \*John Warner (R-VA)

### MEMBERS

**PRESENT (\*):** REPUBLICANS

\*Strom Thurmond (SC)  
John McCain (AZ)  
Robert Smith (NH)  
\*James Inhofe (OK)  
\*Rick Santorum (PA)  
\*Olympia Snowe (ME)  
\*Pat Roberts (KS)  
\*Wayne Allard (CO)  
Tim Hutchinson (AR)  
Jeff Sessions (AL)

DEMOCRATS

\*Carl Levin (MI)  
Edward Kennedy (MA)  
Jeff Bingaman (NM)  
Robert Byrd (WV)  
\*Charles Robb (VA)  
\*Joseph Lieberman (CT)  
\*Max Cleland (GA)  
Mary Landrieu (LA)  
Jack Reed (RI)

### WITNESSES:

General Michael E. Ryan, USAF, Chief of Staff  
General Eric K. Shinseki, USA, Chief of Staff  
Admiral Jay L. Johnson, USN, CNO  
General James L. Jones, USMC, Commandant

Information contained in this resume was obtained during an open hearing. It will not be released outside of the Department of Defense (DOD) agencies until published hearing transcripts have been released by the Committee, and only to the extent it is in accord with published hearing procedures.

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Date: 1 Mar 00 Ext: 695-7613

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The hearing was cordial covering major elements of the FY01 PB. Members stressed last year's improvements in pay and retirement benefits and queried if it's had a positive impact on retention and recruiting. Other issues covered were BRAC, overall decline in readiness, Kosovo lessons learned, budget shortfalls and the UPL, retention and recruiting efforts, airlift capabilities during two MTWs, B-2 MC rates and deployable shelter status, and Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles.

**Sen Warner, Chairman, called the Committee to order at 0937.**

### **Senator Warner recognized Sen Inhofe**

#### **Senator Inhofe**

Sen Inhofe gave an opening briefing, from the witness chair, about the Vieques range issue. He posited the range provides essential combat training to Naval forces enroute to Middle East operations, and he believes there are no suitable alternative ranges available. He stated American lives are at stake because some personnel are not receiving necessary training, the range is temporarily closed, prior to deploying into a combat environment.

### **Senator Warner's opening remarks**

- Praised the \$60B in the modernization account
- Need to reverse negative trends in readiness, aging equipment, recruiting and retention
- Lauded the Services for last year's pay Triad -- sees it having a positive impact
- Intends to pursue new technologies to reduce the risk of casualties. Said unmanned systems have great potential for combat systems -- he would like to see 1/3 of aerial combat systems unmanned in 10 years

### **Sen Levin's opening remarks**

- Said the FY01 PB is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of sustained budget increases and is \$1.8B more than Congress had programmed for FY02 two years ago
- Commended Service Chiefs for the splendid showing in Kosovo
- Commented he noticed that health care is not in the UPL

### **General Ryan's opening remarks**

- Thanked the Administration and the Committee for last year's funding increases
- Airpower was the key element during Allied Force
- Recruiting and retention remain a challenge -- our eye is on the ball
- Older aircraft cause people to work harder - need to press ahead with the F-22
- AF needs help for infrastructure requirements and to improve the health care system

### **General Shineski's opening remarks**

- Thanked the Committee for the supplemental and last years pay Triad
- Emphasized two points, the need for a timely Kosovo supplemental, and additional procurement dollars to complete their Transformation into an Objective Force

### **Admiral Johnson's opening remarks**

- Emphasized Smart Ship and Smart Work programs designed to reduce personnel requirements aboard ships
- Recruiting is still a challenge
- There are positive signs in overall retention, but is waiting to see the same for aviators

### **General Jones' opening remarks**

-Stated a need to increase investment in national defense in order to fix our readiness and modernization problems

**Senator Warner**

-Opined the Army's FYDP is severely underfunded to achieve their vision of Transformation. He asked General Shineski how this new Army vision will complement the USMC, and also if there is redundancy in mission and resources with the USMC

**General Shineski**

-Stated the FYDP funds one objective brigade each year

**General Jones**

-Stated Army Transformation is complementary with USMC and is cohesive in nature

**Senator Thurmond**

-Asked all witnesses what their views were regarding legislation affecting when an officer receives a regular commission

**All witnesses**

-Stated they see no problem with the law

**Senator Thurmond**

-Asked CSAF to comment on the low reliability rates for the B-2. Also asked CSAF to comment on portable shelters for the B-2

**General Ryan**

-Answered it's time consuming to examine the low observable characteristics of the B-2. However, a new portable examining system promises to decrease the B-2 down time and increase its reliability rates

-Said the AF will have portable shelters for the B-2 fielded in two years

**Senator Lieberman**

-Urged Services to ensure interoperability of the various TMD systems

-Asked CSAF if the current budget moves us forward in the development of UAVs

**General Ryan**

-Answered we have moved forward with unmanned system technologies

**Senator Warner**

-Asked CSAF if AF has looked at the Israeli unmanned systems

**General Ryan**

-Answered he personally has toured the Israeli facilities and their systems are mainly used for reconnaissance.

-The biggest challenge with unmanned systems is the command, control, and communication element

-Controlling the vehicles in-flight requires large bandwidths and present significant technical challenges which we are working

**Senator Roberts**

-Asked what each Service has done to detect, deter, and protect against terrorist attacks using WMD weapons

**General Ryan**

-Said the AF is diligent and postured with regards to our overseas and CONUS bases.

Further stated the AF trains and equips its personnel to deter, detect, and protect against these types of attacks, but added we are vulnerable

**Senator Robb**

-Asked CSAF to comment on the AF's capability to conduct swing operations during a 2 MTW scenario after the C-141 fleet is replaced by C-17s

**General Ryan**

-Answered there will be fewer airframes which reduces some flexibility, but C-17s give the AF increased capability -- especially with outsized cargo

-Stated the AF needs to modernize the C-5 fleet and fix their reliability problems

**Senator Levin**

-**FOR THE RECORD** - asked each witness to provide the committee with their Services savings from BRAC broken out by year

**Senator Levin**

-**FOR THE RECORD** - asked CSAF, "what is your understanding of, and your plan for, the court case involving unauthorized appropriations for F-15s?"

**Senator Warner adjourned the hearing at 1312**